

FACT SHEET



Sentinel Wood Treating Site Ava, Missouri

November 2001

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) are continuing to investigate and oversee activities at the Sentinel Wood Treating site in Ava, Douglas County, Missouri. MDNR has completed all of the sampling activities for the Expanded Site Inspection (ESI), and the health agencies have worked toward evaluating potential risks from exposure to contaminants found off-site.

Site Background

The Sentinel Wood Treating site is a former wood treating facility. It is owned by Sentinel Industries, Inc. Sentinel treated wood with pentachlorophenol (PCP) on part of the site from 1959 to approximately 1982.

Expanded Site Inspection

MDNR has completed the sampling activities for the ESI which is a comprehensive investigation to better define the nature and extent of on-site and off-site contamination posed by past practices at the site. The ESI Report will be made available to the public as soon as it is finalized. The ESI sampling results revealed the following:

On-site

Significant PCP concentrations were found in subsurface structures located in the former treatment area. This area is in the south-central portion of the site. Lower levels of PCP

COMMUNITY MEETING

EPA and MDNR invite you to attend a Community Meeting regarding site activities in the Ava community. The meeting will include short site updates, followed by a question and answer period. The Community Meeting will be held:

**Tuesday, November 13, 2001
7 p.m.**

**Ava Middle School Gynasium
Ava, Missouri**

For more information, contact

**Hattie Thomas, EPA Community
Involvement Coordinator
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and dioxin were also found in subsurface soils in the area immediately surrounding the former wood treatment area.

Off-site

Surface water and sediment samples were collected at several locations along the creek that runs through the site and the city of Ava. Sample results show PCP in the creek water on the site and up to one mile downstream from the site. PCP was detected in creek water samples from two private residences and in the city park.

Dioxin was found in the creek sediment samples, one of which contained dioxin above federal health standards. Several solvents, including xylenes and ethylbenzene, were also found in the creek water at a private residence south of 12th Avenue.

Ground water samples were collected from newly constructed monitoring wells on and off the site, the city of Ava's municipal wells, three private wells, and a spring. Very low PCP concentrations were detected in Municipal Well #2 and Municipal Well #6, in one private well, in the spring, and in one on-site monitoring well. All PCP concentrations detected in ground water were below federal safe drinking water standards.

As a precautionary measure, all of Ava's four active municipal wells are being monitored on a quarterly basis to ensure the safety of Ava's public drinking water supply. After the first detections of PCP in the city's municipal wells, PCP has not been detected in any of the municipal wells during two subsequent rounds of quarterly monitoring.

Risk Assessment and Health Consultation

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) completed an initial risk assessment regarding contamination migrating from the Sentinel site and the adjacent 12th Avenue Solvents site. The risk assessment evaluates the potential health threats to children and adults that may come into contact with contaminated surface water, sediments or soils from areas located south of 12th Avenue.

The risk assessment is based on EPA and MDNR's samples collected along the creek system that flows through a residential area and continues through the city park, and from samples collected from a residential garden area adjacent to the creek. The samples were collected from December 2000 through May 2001.

The following table describes the sampling locations and summarizes the associated risk assessment conclusions for each area.

Risk Assessment Table

Sampling Locations	Associated Risks
Area 1. Creek area immediately south of 12 th Avenue up-gradient from confluence of drainage ditch into creek	Potential health threat exists from exposure to this area
Area 2. Drainage ditch immediately south of 12 th Avenue below PVC pipe	Potential health threat may exist from exposure to this area
Area 3. Creek area immediately south of 12 th Avenue below confluence of drainage ditch into creek area	Potential health threat may exist from exposure to this area
Area 4. Creek area adjacent to residence	Potential health threat exists from exposure to dioxin in this area
Area 5. Creek area at Ava City Park	Potential health threat may exist from exposure to this area
Area 6. Prairie Creek at low-water crossing west of Highway 5	Potential health threat may exist from exposure to this area
Residential garden area immediately south of 12 th Avenue	Potential health threats are not expected to occur from exposure to this area

MDHSS is also in the process of preparing a health consultation, which is another way to determine if the off-site migration of contamination from the site is likely to cause adverse health effects. The health consultation will be made available to the public as soon as the document is finalized.

Current Activities

EPA, MDNR and Sentinel Industries, Inc. have signed an Administrative Order on Consent. This order requires Sentinel Industries, Inc. to perform a response action to address the contamination caused by Sentinel's former wood treating operations that is coming from the site.

The response action will include:

- # Activating the on-site ground water diversion system. This system will pump the contaminated ground water, treat it and discharge the treated water into the on-site stream.
- # Securing the site and conducting additional assessment activities to further characterize the wood treating contamination sources.

Community Advisory Group

A Community Advisory Group, or CAG, is an organization made up of community members that can be created so that the agencies overseeing site activities and the affected community can work together. A CAG helps us and your community exchange site activity information and community concerns. A CAG usually meets regularly and may review and comment on site-related technical documents and plans.

A Community Advisory Group Toolkit is available to help your community set up a CAG. The toolkit is available at the local information repository listed below, and on the CAG website, www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/cag. Once there, click on the resources button and you will have access to the toolkit.

Additional Information

The Sentinel Wood Treating site Administrative Record is available for public review. The Administrative Record contains relevant site documents. It is available during normal business hours at the following locations:

Douglas County Public Library
301 S.W. 3rd Avenue
Ava, Missouri

EPA Region 7 Docket Room
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions about the site, this fact sheet or developing a CAG, please contact:

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